

Message Text

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ACTION EPA-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1063

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DEPT PASS EPA FOR SHOSTAL

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TAGS: SENV, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR ENVIRONMENT AGREEMENT: MID YEAR REVIEW
(02.00)

REF: (A) STATE 90299, (B) MOSCOW 8917

1. ON APRIL 26 EMBASSY RECEIVED LETTER FROM HEAD OF
HYDROMET, YURIY IZRAEL', TO EPA ADMINISTRATOR, DOUGLAS
COSTLE. INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS PARA 2
BELOW. ORIGINAL POUCHED TO SHOSTAL, REGISTRY NO. 952790.

2. DEAR MR. COSTLE:

THANK YOU FOR THE INVITATION TO VISIT THE US, WHICH WAS
CONTAINED IN YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 16, 1978, AND ALSO
EXTENDED IN YOUR NAME BY MR. SHOSTAL DURING HIS VISIT IN
FEBRUARY. WITH DEEP REGRETS I MUST TELL YOU THAT THE
VERY HEAVY WEIGHT OF INTERNAL BUSINESS AND PLANS IN
JUNE AND JULY WILL NOT ALLOW ME TO FIND TIME FOR THE VISIT
TO THE US AT THAT TIME, AND I THEREFORE AM FORCED TO
DECLINE YOUR KIND INVITATION.

ON THE OTHER HAND, CONSIDERING THAT CONDUCTING THE
TRADITIONAL MID YEAR REVIEW OF THE COOPERATION WAS PLANNED
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BY THE SIXTH JCM MEORANDUM, I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE TO
HOLD THIS MEETING IN THE USSR AND TO INVITE YOU AND
MRS. B. BLUM WITH TWO OR THREE COLLEAGUES FOR A 7-10
DAY VISIT IN THE SECOND HALF OF JUNE OR THE FIRST HALF OF
JULY.

DURING THIS VISIT WE COULD DISCUSS CURRENT QUESTIONS OF

COOPERATION FOR ONE OR TWO DAYS, HEARING AS IS USUAL THE REPORTS OF THE SOVIET LEADERS OF THE PROJECTS, DISCUSS QUESTIONS OF THE FORTHCOMING SESSION, AND THEN YOUR DELEGATION COULD FAMILIARIZE ITSELF WITH THE PRACTICAL WORK OF SOME SOVIET INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT. WE WOULD BE ABLE TO COVER THE EXPENSES OF THE VISIT. PLEASE CONSIDER AND ANSWER OUR PROPOSALS AND PROVIDE AN ACCEPTABLE TIME FOR ARRANGING THE VISIT BY THE MIDDLE OF MAY, SO THAT I CAN CORRECTLY PLAN MY PARTICIPATION IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS.

SINCERELY, YU. A. IZRAEL'.

3. KAZAKOV TOLD EMBOFF THAT IZRAEL' HAS AGREED "IN PRINCIPLE" TO PRESENT A PAPER AT THE FORTHCOMING S&T JCM ON THE WORK OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT, ALONG THE LINES OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL IN REF B. HOWEVER, KAZAKOV SAID THAT IZRAEL' WOULD PREFER THAT US ALSO PRESENT ITS OWN EVALUATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT, AND IN THIS CONNECTION KAZAKOV INQUIRED WHETHER DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR BLUM COULD MODIFY HER TRAVEL PLANS TO ALLOW HER TO BE IN MOSCOW FOR THE S&T JCM, SCHEDULED FOR JULY 17-19. (CHIEF SESSION OF THE JCM WILL BE ON JULY 17, WHEN WE ASSUME SOVIETS WILL PLAN TO PRESENT THE PROPOSED TALKS ON SEVERAL OTHER COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.)

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4. KAZAKOV ALSO ASKED WHETHER BLUM IS STILL INTERESTED IN VISITING A SOVIET NATURE PRESERVE, AS SHE INDICATED TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE RUNOV DURING THE LAST JCM. NOTING THAT BLUM HAS ALSO EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO VISIT LENINGRAD, KAZAKOV STATED THAT IF MS. BLUM PLANS TO BE IN USSR FOR ONLY A WEEK SOVIETS WILL ONLY HAVE TIME TO ARRANGE A VISIT TO ONE OF THE PRESERVES NEAR MOSCOW. IF SHE COULD EXTEND HER STAY TO TEN DAYS, SOVIETS WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE HER TO ONE OF THE MORE REMOTE PRESERVES, PERHAPS ONE IN CENTRAL ASIA IN ADDITION TO LENINGRAD. (WE ALSO RECOMMEND THAT MS. BLUM ASK TO SEE WHILE IN MOSCOW THE NEW AUTOMATED AIR AND WATER POLLUTION MONITORING CENTER WHICH PRESS REPORTS HAVE INDICATED THE SOVIETS ARE SETTING UP IN OSTANKINO.) TOON

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